

HOLD TWO FIRM BELIEFS

By: Cleon Lyles

"The average person will get a great deal out of life if he can always keep two firm beliefs - the first is belief in himself and the second is belief in others". This is not always easy.

"Know then thyself" is advice that has been handed down through the ages. To do this we must be fully aware of our capabilities and our limitations. No one else can be so aware of these as we are. It is easy for us to hide these from our selves. Many people are capable of doing much more than they are willing to admit. Certainly we cannot accuse them of being dishonest, but we do know they have not given themselves a chance. Especially is this true in the Lord's work. I heard someone say a few days ago, concerning the many Christians in one city. "There is an abundance of talent going to waste." Yet I am sure those who are wasting their talents are not aware of it. In some cases it may have not been called to their attention. In others there is a refusal to believe the facts when presented. Hence no effort is made.

The person is wise who lives his life so that he can make the most of his capabilities, yet he must be careful not to destroy his confidence in fruitless efforts to do something for which he is neither fitted nor trained. That will always lead to failure. Hence we can see the necessity of knowing in what ways we are strong, in order to make the most of our strength, and still we must know in what ways we are weak so that our weaknesses will not be allowed to betray us.

Belief in ourselves is not based on idle hopes. It is based on knowing ourselves so well that we know what is possible for us to do and the courage to work honestly to do more than might be expected of us. The person who does not believe in himself will never be able to do anything well. If one has false faith in himself he is doomed to disappointment.

To believe in others it is necessary that we know people. We cannot shut our

eyes to the fact that there are some people who are scoundrels and weaklings. But we must not assume that because we meet a few of these they make up the majority. Actually they are few in comparison to the number who are decent, fair, and helpful. We must face the fact that we cannot allow our being deceived in a few individuals to shake our belief in all people. Such an attitude has often turned people against many people with whom they have had no contact at all. In spite of those who are exceptions most people are likeable, understanding, and as honest as we are.

We can not live our lives without something happening that tends to shake our confidence in others, and sometimes in ourselves. But we must be able to rise above these occurrences and doubts that have a way of creeping into our hearts. If we are unable to rise above them life will never offer us its most complete rewards and lasting satisfactions. The person is doomed to a life of misery if he allows the actions of a few to represent the actions of many. To live in a world filled with people in whom we have no confidence is miserable living. To live in this world without any belief in ourselves is to live in hell while on earth.

Life can be full and meaningful for all of us if, built upon our faith in God, we can believe in ourselves and in others with whom we are called to associate.

THINK IT OVER

Whenever anyone has offended me, I try to raise my soul so high that the offence cannot reach it. - Sel.

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Putting off an easy thing makes it difficult; putting off a hard thing makes it impossible. - Larimer.

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If you cannot do great things yourself, remember that you may do small things in a great way.
